Please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

In accordance with amendment practice pursuant to Rule 1.121(c)(1)(i), presented below is a "clean" set of "rewritten claims." A "marked up" version of these claims is attached hereto as Exhibit A pursuant to Rule 1.121(c)(1)(ii).

Please amend the claims as follows:

B1 Sub C1

1. (Twice amended) A powder or granule composition comprising:

(a) L-ascorbic acid and/or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and

(b) a binder consisting of about 0.1 to about 10% by weight of pectin, calculated based on the total weight of the composition thereof.

B2 Sub C1

8. (Twice amended) A compressed tablet formed from a powder or granule composition comprising:

(a) L-ascorbic acid and/or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and

(b) a binder consisting of about 0.1 to about 10% by weight of pectin, based on the total weight of the composition.

Please add the following claims:

B3 Sub C1

22. A powder or granule for making tablets comprising:

(a) L-ascorbic acid and/or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and

(b) about 0.1 to about 10% by weight of pectin binder, calculated based on the total weight of the composition thereof,

the composition having a compressibility superior to a composition comprising L-ascorbic acid and/or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and about 0.1 to about 10% by weight of a standard binder.

23. A composition according to claim 22 further comprising about 0.1 to 10% by weight of an adjuvant and/or an excipient calculated based on the total weight of the composition.

24. A composition according to claim 22 wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable salt of L-ascorbic acid is sodium ascorbate.

25. A composition according to claim 22 wherein the pectin is a citrus pectin.

26. A composition according to claim 22 wherein the pectin is present in the composition at about 0.5% to about 5% by weight, calculated based on the total weight of the composition.

27. A composition according to claim 26 wherein the pectin is present in the composition at about 0.5% to about 2% by weight, calculated based on the total weight of the composition.

28. A composition according to claim 22 wherein the composition consists of 95-99% by weight of L-ascorbic acid and/or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and 5-1% by weight of pectin.

29. A compressed tablet formed from a powder or granule composition comprising:

(a) L-ascorbic acid and/or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and

(b) about 0.1 to about 10% by weight of pectin binder, based on the total weight of the composition,

the composition having a compressibility superior to a composition comprising L-ascorbic acid and/or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and about 0.1 to about 10% by weight of a standard binder.

30. A compressed tablet according to claim 29 further comprising a lubricant or a mixture of lubricants.

31. A compressed tablet according to claim 30 wherein the lubricant or a mixture of lubricants are selected from the group consisting of stearic acid, a magnesium salt of stearic acid, a calcium salt of stearic acid, and glyceryl behenate 45 (Compritol 888 ATO).

32. A compressed tablet according to claim 30 wherein the lubricant or a mixture of lubricants is present in the tablet in an amount of about 0.5 to 4% by weight, calculated based on the total weight of the composition.

33. A compressed tablet according to claim 29 further comprising an excipient.

34. A compressed tablet according to claim 33 wherein the excipient is selected from the group consisting of dextrinized sucrose (Di Pac Sugar), microcrystalline cellulose, and starch.

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 8 have been amended to recite "a binder consisting of ... pectin ..." Support for the amendment of claims 1 and 8 is found in the specification at, for example, page 3, line 34, and in original claims 1 and 8, respectively. *In re Gardner*, 177 USPQ 396, 397 (CCPA 1973) and MPEP §§ 608.01(o) and (l).